

Application No. 10/674,257
Amendment dated December 19, 2005
Reply to Office Action of September 21, 2005

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. – 2. (Canceled)

1 3. (Currently Amended) The system as defined in Claim 10 ~~[[2]]~~ wherein the
2 sensor ~~means system~~ includes at least one of a first sensor configured to generate
3 ~~[[the]]~~ a deactivation signal on the latching of a seat belt tongue within ~~the a~~
4 ~~corresponding buckle and a proximity sensor configured to generate the deactivation~~
5 ~~signal when a portion of a lower leg of the occupant is sufficiently close to the knee~~
6 ~~bolster.~~

1 4. (Currently Amended) The system as defined in Claim 10 ~~[[1]]~~ wherein the first
2 occupant protection system comprises a multi-point seat belt system.

5. (Canceled)

1 6. (Currently Amended) The system as defined in Claim 3 ~~[[5]]~~ further including
2 sensor means for generating ~~[[a]]~~ the deactivation signal indicating one of a) the
3 tongue is latched in the buckle and b) the tongue is not latched within the buckle.

1 7. (Original) The system as defined in Claim 6 further including deactivation signal
2 means responsive to the deactivation signal for deactivating the knee bolster.

1 8. (Original) The system as defined in Claim 4 wherein the first means includes a
2 lower leg proximity sensor for generating the deactivation signal.

1 9. (Canceled)

- 1 10. (New) An occupant safety restraint system for protecting an occupant during
2 a vehicular crash, comprising:
3 a first occupant protection system having at least one seat belt configured to
4 be lockingly secured about the occupant, the first occupant protection system further
5 including a seat belt buckle, having a locked and unlocked state, into which the seat
6 belt is operationally locked;
7 a second occupant protection system comprising a deployable knee bolster to
8 protect, when activated, at least a portion of the lower extremities of the occupant,
9 the knee bolster movable only once from a stored position to an active position upon
10 sensing an accident; and
11 a sensing system including a sensor which senses whether the buckle is
12 locked or unlocked, and which generates a signal to the second occupant protection
13 system to prevent the knee bolster from moving to the active position if the seat belt
14 is operatively locked in the buckle.